

Southeast News

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Rochester Site of General Synod

Rochester, New York is the site of the 13th General Synod of the United Church of Christ. To be held June 27 - July 1, 1981, the Synod will bring together over 700 delegates from 39 Conferences in addition to national staff personnel and visitors.

In addition to six proposed pronouncements, the Synod will consider four proposed priorities in the areas of faith, family life, peace and youth.

In addition to staff personnel, delegates for the Southeast Conference include Freda Brown, Henry Tuttle, Marlbro Roberts, Mary Marshall and Mark Frey.

Advance materials on all issues to be dealt with at the Synod have been forwarded to all Conference churches.

UN Calls 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 1981 as the "International Year of Disabled Persons." Worldwide, an estimated 450 million persons suffer some form of physical or mental impairment:

—Accidents, mostly at home, affect more than 20 million persons annually and leave 110,000 with permanent disabilities each year.

—Road accidents disable more than 10 million persons annually, often causing amputations, brain damage, paraplegia, and quadriplegia.

—Crippling diseases are still widespread, with leprosy alone attacking 20 million persons. Malnutrition-linked disabilities are common in poor countries, with 250,000 children losing their sight because of chronic vitamin deficiencies.

—Mental illness will be suffered by one out of ten human beings during a lifetime, often with long-term effects. Mental patients now occupy one-quarter of all hospital beds.

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Time For Spring Planning

The basic resource for the local church's annual financial enlistment, *Money for the Church's Ministries*, has taken seriously two facts that have been repeatedly confirmed in many congregations:

—A church member who helps to decide what work the congregation will do in the coming year is more likely to give more to support that work.

—A proposed budget that includes the work that the congregation has decided to do next year is more likely to challenge members to give more than a budget that simply limits the work to what is in this year's budget.

Supplement Two of *Money for the Church's Ministries* details two alternative planning procedures for congregations that have not recently engaged their members in planning but wish to make a start. It identifies three additional alternatives for congregations that are ready to do advanced planning of program and budget.

The Basic Resourcebook of *Money for the Church's Ministries*, together with four supplements, is available at a cost of \$6.00. Write: Literature Distribution Service, Stewardship Council, 1505 Race Street, Room 618, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Call To Prayer Without Ceasing

In a letter to Conference Minister Emmett Floyd, Charles E. Cobb, Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice, United Church of Christ writes:

"For many months now the city of Atlanta, Georgia has gone through the horrible experience of having the lives of 25 or more of its Black children destroyed and-or missing. The agony of Atlanta is the agony of America, as a disturbing increase in violence dominates the American scene.

"Unquestionably, some of that which is happening can be attributed to a turning

(Cont. on Page 2)

LaGrange College Site of SEC Annual Meeting

LaGrange College, LaGrange, Georgia is the site of the 15th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference, to be held Friday through Sunday, June 19-21, 1981.

"Acts of the Covenant" is the theme of the meeting which will feature Rev. Dr. George Otto as the Keynote speaker. Dr. Otto is the Executive Director of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ.

In addition to regular business, the Annual Meeting will focus on New Initiatives In Church Development, a national fund-raising program designed to help implement new church starts, the majority of which are in the southern part of the country. Reports from the Women's Task Force and Elon Home for Children will also be highlighted.

Registration materials along with all commission reports are being forwarded to conference churches six weeks prior to the meeting. Costs for registration, lodging and meals will be \$35.00 per person. Registrations need to be received no later than June 5.

For further information, write to: Southeast Conference, UCC, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

Southern Regional Meeting For UCC Women Planned

A Regional Meeting for the women of the Southeast, Southern, South Central and Florida Conferences will be held October 16-18, 1981 at DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tennessee.

Sponsored by the United Church of Christ Women's Inter-Staff Team and the Office for Church Life and Leadership, the meeting will focus on the theme — "Women of Faith: Varied Gifts — One Spirit."

The meeting will include workshops, discussions, times for sharing and

(Cont. on page 2)

CONFERENCE CORNER

Dr. Emmett O. Floyd

As we approach the Annual Meeting I find myself growing more excited. For one thing it is just sheer fun to have the opportunity of getting together. It is always good to see old friends and to have the privilege of making new friends. A Conference meeting has some features in common with a family reunion or a class reunion. Yet what we are about is exciting beyond the friendship level. We are a family — but we are a family bound together not by ties of blood and kin but by the ties of faith.



An Annual Meeting is an occasion to renew those ties. We hear how the various officers, boards and committees have been about their responsibilities. We gain fresh insight and inspiration as we hear about our fellow churches and their growth and activities. Old congregations and new congregations — all have a story to tell and good news to share with others.

We have the high privilege of being challenged to new tasks and renewed dedication. There is much to celebrate with the Southeast Conference. God has been good to us as a people. There is also much yet to be done for the sake of our God and His Kingdom. Christ calls us together in order that we might better serve the cause of the Gospel here and around the world.

I hope you share the sense of joy and excitement. While the invitation is mailed from the Atlanta office I believe it really came from God. See you in LaGrange!

Call to Prayer - Cont'd.

away from the ultimate source of all of our strength, God. We are seemingly no longer a nation of prayer, a nation of communal concern and a nation of willing sacrifice.

"In the light of this tragedy, the Commission for Racial Justice is urging every Conference, Association, and local church to join in a call to "Prayer Without Ceasing," until the tragedy that is Atlanta's has been brought to an end and a prayer consciousness in the nation has been restored. We are asking that all churches respond to this Prayer Call and continue throughout the end of this tragedy and beyond so that never again will any community suffer the anguish of Atlanta at this time."

East Alabama Youth Meet

The first of four yearly Youth Rallies sponsored by the East Alabama Association was held March 28 at LaGrange, GA, United Congregational Christian Church. Youth and adult advisors were present from Forest Home, Huguley, Lowell, Oak Grove, Phenix City First, Pleasant Grove, Rock Stand, LaGrange Hillside and LaGrange United churches.

Under the leadership of Rev. Roy Bain, chairman of the Religious Education Committee, the youth elected officers who were installed by Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister.

Under new business, a number of suggestions for fund raising were explored, including participation in the Oak Grove Craft Fair. A new tent to be used in the Caravan Camping Program was displayed. Pictures of the past Mini-Camp at Laguna Beach were shown and a second Mini-Camp was announced for July 21 to August 2 at the Boy Scout Camp, West Point, GA.

Following a vigorous game of volley ball in the church yard, refreshments prepared by the ladies of the church were enjoyed.

Fairfield Glade Sanctuary Completed

Over 280 people attended the first worship service held in the new worship building of Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN. Opened on Easter Sunday, April 19, the new building is the first structure of the Fairfield Glade fellowship which was first initiated in 1976.

An interdenominational community church, Fairfield Glade received denominational support through the United Presbyterian Church as well as from the United Church of Christ.

A special Consecration Service will be held in the new worship center on May 31 at 3:00 p.m.

Southern Meeting - Cont'd.

celebrating as well as worship.

Leadership for the meeting will include Ms. Marilyn Breitling, Ms. Gretchen Eick, Dr. Nanett Roberts and Rev. Susan Savell. Rev. Joyce Myers and Ms. Dorothy Robinson will be present from OCLL. Dr. Yvonne Delk will be the Keynote.

Cost for the meeting will be \$50, which includes lodging, meals and registration fees. Registration must be received no later than September 20 and should be forwarded to: Ms. Betty Greene, Registrar, P.O. Box 368, Demorest, GA 30535.



Boat People Receiving Care

The two children pictured above and their extended family fled from Vietnam two years ago — as "boat people." Now settled in San Francisco, by means of a resettlement program supported by Protestant churches in the area, including the United Church of Christ congregations, these children and their family are beginning to adapt to their new life.

For this family, however, the warm welcome they received in San Francisco was marred by deep tragedy on their long journey to the United States. The children's grandfather was separated from the rest of the family during their escape, and they still don't know where he is. Their grandmother, mother and father, and other brothers and sisters make up their family now, but the grandfather is sorely missed.

The children, and all their siblings except one, have Vietnamese names. The newest addition to their family, a baby brother who was born in the United States, is named Michael — a Western name given to him by his parents to affirm their hopes for their new future in San Francisco.

Has your church investigated what it can do to help a refugee family? Your help is needed — and appreciated!

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, TN:

So many Churchmen have an awfully low "pain threshold" when it comes to giving "until it hurts."

UCBWM Looks Into Future

The 171st Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries was held in Reading, PA, November 9-12, 1980.

The theme of the meeting was "No Separate Future." The theme is indicative of the Board's work within various countries throughout the world. In our partnership with these countries, we are tying our future with their future.

During the meeting, the Board heard reports from our many missionaries serving our church around the world. There were filmstrip presentations, discussion groups and moments to share with our missionaries.

Of great significance to the Southeast Conference was the workshop on Budget Planning. Churches were urged to increase OCWM giving and OGHs offerings. It was demonstrated how church budgets have escalated in the last decade, but OCWM and OGHs giving decreased or remained about the same in most churches.

Dr. Emmett Floyd, President of the Board for World Ministries and our Conference Minister, would encourage all of our Southeast Conference churches to strive to improve our giving in OCWM and OGHs offerings. Furthermore, churches are urged to seek information about the work of the Board for World Ministries. Dr. Floyd and I are available to assist in spreading the work of the Board through printed materials, films or oral presentations.

REV. JAMES H. CANTRELL

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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

United Congregational Christian, LaGrange, GA

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

One of the larger fellowships in the East Alabama Association is United Congregational Christian Church, UCC located in LaGrange, Georgia. True to its name, United is the result of a 1931 merger between First Christian Church (organized in 1900) and First Congregational Church (organized in a tent in 1909).

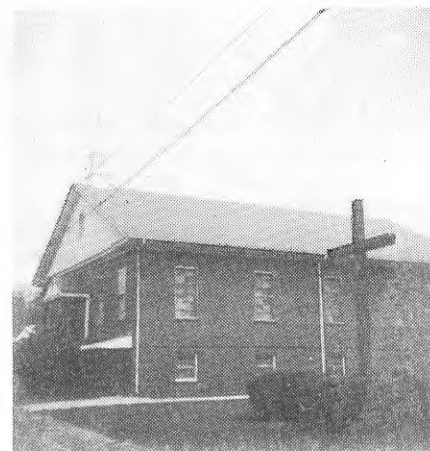
With 235 members on the church roll, United maintains a vibrant ministry, participating in ecumenical endeavors and playing an active role in the community of which it is a part.

Both men and women's groups play an important role in the life of the church. In addition to regular contributions to the West Georgia Medical Center, the two women's circles sponsor grocery showers for needy persons, provide fruit baskets for shut-ins, take an active concern in the youth of the church and contribute financially to special projects of the church.

The men's fellowship has been responsible for remodeling and maintain-



Vertical lift [to the left of steps] won an SEC award for LaGrange United for the most innovative aid to handicapped persons.



United Congregational Christian
Church, UCC, LaGrange, GA

ance of the church and recently purchased a van to be used with the youth and the aged.

Young people have a special place at United. With a special emphasis on outreach, young people bring a special offering forward each Sunday designated for the Elon Home for Children. United believes that children need to be taught that the Christian life involves both giving and receiving.

One of the most recent projects of the church was an installation of a vertical lift beside the front door of the church enabling the handicapped and the aged to enter the sanctuary.

Rev. Roy Bain is pastor of the church.

Last Call For '81!

Each year the Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns, located in Morgan and Scott Counties, Tennessee, asks for youth and adults to give of their time, talents and treasures. Called a "Work-Study Group," participants are invited to do the physical work of mission throughout Morgan and Scott Counties. Work includes: painting houses, patching roofs, building chimneys, repairing porches, re-doing wiring, replacing and glazing windows and fixing doors.

Each Work-Study group consists of 15-20 people (couples, families and individuals) who — for one week — are willing to learn the customs, worship, and recreate with the people of the area as well as labor for Christ's sake.

For further information write: Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns, P.O. Box 8, Deer Lodge, TN 37726.

NEWS & NOTES

First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tennessee has done it again! With a membership of 110 persons, Belvidere has once again topped all other churches in the Southeast Conference in receipts to One Great Hour of Sharing with total contributions of \$4,664. Second in line is Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee whose contributions to OGHS totaled \$3,072. With 299 members between the two churches, total gifts received were \$7,736!

The East Alabama Association recently elected the following Association Youth Officers: President — Gerry Smith, Huguley, Vice-President — Ginger Worley, Pleasant Grove, Secretary — Vickie Fowler, State Line, Treasurer — Donna Perdue, First Phenix City, Reporter — Chanda Nixon, Huguley.

The family of J.R. Wilson wishes to thank persons throughout the Southeast Conference for their messages of consolation following the sudden death of Bob Wilson. Mr. Wilson had been Treasurer of the Southeast Conference for a number of years.

The new pastor of Todd Congregational Christian Church is Dennis Courtney. Todd Church is located in Shawmut, AL.

Summer volunteers can now apply to work in UCC community and institutional service projects across the country. Coordinated through the UC Board for Homeland Ministries, the program places volunteers, mostly young adults, in educational, recreational and mutual assistance projects. Some institutional programs also need volunteers in homes for children and the elderly. For details,

write Summer Service, UCBHM, 132 W. 31 Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Rev. William Scott, pastor of Central UCC, Atlanta, GA, was recently in Greensboro, N.C. to preach the sermon for the Installation of William Smith as the pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ. Not only was Rev. Scott's father the first member of the Greensboro Church recommended for "study for the ministry," but Rev. Scott's mother and father were also married in the church. Preceding Dr. Smith as pastor was Dr. Emmett Floyd, now Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference.

Jo Anne and Don Flick recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at an Open House held in their honor at Church of the Master, UCC, in Hickory, NC. Rev. Flick formerly served as pastor of Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior, UCC.

St. John's United Church in Cullman, AL, made one challenge and came close to surpassing another. With a goal of 600, the church had a total of 745 people participate in Easter Sunday services. A total Easter offering of \$4,785 was received against the challenge goal of \$5,000.

Rev. Lee McReynolds, pastor of First Church, UCC in Nashville, TN, represented the Southeast Conference at the Annual Assembly of the Christian Churches of Tennessee, held April 24-26 at Clarksville, TN.

First Church, Birmingham, AL, is hosting the Youth Choir of St. John United Church of Christ of St. Charles, MO in a concert to be presented at the church on June 7.

SANF Youth Enjoy Rally

Under the leadership of Mr. Earl Beck, Chairman of the South Alabama-Northwest Florida's Religious Education Committee, the SANF youth gathered together for a two day Rally, April 4-5, held at Andalusia First Congregational Christian Church.

The first day of the Rally offered a most ambitious program. In addition to a presentation entitled "Making Career Decisions," the group was also given an excellent demonstration on the harmful effects of using drugs. Following a puppet show by the youth of the Baker-Good Hope Church, the group enjoyed a lakeside cookout.

Youth were in charge of the Sunday morning worship service which was highlighted by singers from Blackwoods church and communion celebrated by host pastor, J.T. Castleberry. Lunch concluded the event.

The first of two annual Rallies, youth and adult advisors were present from Blackwoods, Good Hope, Pyron Chapel, Antioch and Andalusia First churches.

UN Calls - Cont'd.

—Hearing impairment significantly afflicts 70 million persons per year; cerebral palsy claims 15 million victims; epilepsy afflicts 15 million persons; cardiovascular diseases affect uncounted millions of others; and war leaves uncounted millions more disabled.

By proclaiming the International Year of Disabled Persons, the United Nations hopes to focus attention on this basic, global, human problem.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
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